

Amendments to the specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 8 with the following amended paragraph:

The magnets 66a-66c of the armature assembly ~~[[64]]~~ 66 are configured such that adjacent magnets have opposite radial magnetization. In other words, the uppermost and lowermost magnets, i.e., 66a and 66c, have a first radial polarization (e.g., north-south) whereas the magnet located in the middle of the armature assembly, i.e., magnet 66b, has an opposite radial polarization (e.g., south-north). In this implementation, the actuator 60 uses an overhung design in which the axial height of the magnets, 66a-66c, is larger than the axial height of the corresponding coils, 64a-64c.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

As shown in FIGS. 4E-4F, the armature assembly ~~[[64]]~~ 66 includes two spacers 82a-82b disposed between the three radially magnetized magnets 66a-66c. The armature assembly also includes a ball joint assembly 86 that mechanically connects a valve stem 88 to the remainder of the armature assembly. A series of screws disposed in holes 89a-89d secures the ball joint assembly 86 to a coupler 90. One or more clips, e.g., clip 92, mechanically secures the magnets 66a-66c and spacers 82a-82b to the coupler 90. The magnets 66a-66c and spacers 82a-82b are split 83a, 83b in their axial direction to interrupt the dominant eddy current path.